

# THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

**Tuesday 5th October 2004 7:15 for 7:45**

Large Lecture Theatre,  
MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit,  
Chaucer Road, Cambridge

## **Bayesian Methods for Population Ecology**

**Steve Brooks**

Statistical Laboratory,  
University of Cambridge

**Abstract:** The Bayesian revolution has been slow to take off in the ecological literature, but there are many advantages to adopting these powerful new statistical methods. In this talk we will highlight some of the important ecological issues that have been addressed using Bayesian computational techniques and highlight the advantages and challenges in using them. The talk will be illustrated by a number of cases studies incorporating recent and current research.

**Speaker:** Steve graduated from Bristol in mathematics in 1991 before taking a Masters degree in Statistics at the University of Kent. He stayed on at Kent for a year as a Research Assistant, helping set up The Minitab Macro Library and produced a number of papers. After leaving Kent, Steve did a PhD on Markov Chain Monte Carlo Methods at the Statistical Laboratory in Cambridge writing a couple of papers on MCMC. Since obtaining his PhD, Steve has been a member of the statistics groups at Bristol and Surrey universities and is now back at the Statistical Laboratory in Cambridge. In 1999 Steve was awarded the Royal Statistical Society's Research prize. Research interests focus upon the development and application of computationally intensive methods in statistics. Application areas include archaeology, biology, ecology, epidemiology, economics and engineering.

**Annual General Meeting:** Steve's talk will be preceded by a brief Annual General Meeting.

**Directions** Chaucer Road is off Trumpington Road – if you are heading away from the city centre it is the first right after the junction with Brooklands Avenue. Number 15 is at the end on the left and is a large Victorian House with a more modern extension to its right. The entrance is in the porch located in the middle of the older section on the left as you come in and is accessed by ascending a few steps from the car park. Cars may be parked there. The outside door will be locked at 7:45. Arrivals after 7:45pm can gain admittance by contacting the secretary on 07761769436.

### **Provisional Next Meetings:**

24th November - Simon Godsill (Dept. of Engineering).  
2nd February - Lara Jamieson (Plant Sciences).  
2nd March - Mary Garratt on 'Dead Dutch Cats'.

**Supper:** Some members eat before a talk at the University Centre meeting in the downstairs bar at **5-45pm**. All welcome !

**Secretary:** Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;  
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 801; E-mail [peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk)

**For security purposes could you please let Peter Watson know if you intend attending the talk.**

**TURN OVER for the Annual General Meeting agenda**

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## **Annual General Meeting**

The annual general meeting will be followed immediately by Steve Brooks's talk 'Bayesian methods for Population Ecology '.

### **Agenda:**

0. Approval of Minutes of previous A.G.M.
1. Treasurer's Report.
2. Secretary's Report.
3. Election of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, plus 3 other members of the Committee.
4. Any Other Business.

### **Rules for Election:**

1. FRANCISE: All paid-up members may vote or stand for office.
2. NOMINATIONS: The offices to be filled are Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and three other members of the Committee.

An outgoing Chairman will be a member of the Committee ex officio. At the end of each year the entire Committee will stand down, but may stand again for the same office as they are leaving without nomination. To be elected to a different office a candidate must be nominated by one person from the paid-up membership, not including himself. Nominations do not require a seconder to be valid, but do require the consent of the nominee. One person can be nominated for more than one office, but hold only one. If a person is elected to a higher office (according to the ordering given below) he or she automatically ceases to be a candidate for a lower office. A candidate for the post of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer is automatically a candidate for the Committee if he or she fails to gain election to one of these three posts.

**TURN OVER for the directions to the Large Lecture Theatre and the abstract of Steve's talk**